

BEDLINGTON SALVATION ARMY NEWSLETTER

OUTLOOK

JUNE 2026 - ISSUE 38



Majors Carrie & Philip James
Bedlington Salvation Army
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Message from the Corps Officers

Sunday Worship...Morning Service at 10am.

Sunday School at 10.45am.

Corps Officers : Majors Carrie & Philip James



In the UK, on average a child has 1,277 days between birth and starting nursery school education. Together, we want to 'make them count' for the children, for their families and for the toddler groups that they attend.

make them count

The Christian church as a whole is the leading national provider of parent & toddler groups. The organisation 1277 exists to support these groups as they seek to provide a supportive, safe and fun environment that is welcoming to all, and which demonstrates God's love at the heart of their communities.

To bring the attention of the good work done in Toddler Groups throughout the country, the 1277 organisation have established June as the National Month of Prayer for Toddler Groups. This year, they invited each toddler group to send a sheep with the name of their group to a 1277 representative who carried the flock to Parliament where the MP's and staff were encouraged to take a sheep home and pray for that group. Bedlington and Newbiggin by the Sea both worked on sheep and posted them and were represented in Parliament on 1st June 2026, with the lovely sheep.



Since we arrived here, when people in town see the uniform they often say "I used to bring my children to your toddler group". Our groups help the very youngest members of our community to socialise and make their first friends, and many of these friendships stay with both the kids and carers for many years. The witness to them by the provision of basic bible stories and prayers week in week out gives them an opportunity to know that God loves them. Throughout the month of June the toddler leaders are doing activities focussing on this year's theme, which is the Good Shepherd. On Sunday 14th June, we are going to have a special service to pray for the children, volunteers and groups. We would like to encourage you all to support our Little Lambs Toddler Group, the parents/carers, children and our wonderful team of volunteers in prayer during the month of June that God will continue to use and bless the mission in our Toddler Groups.

Majors Carrie and Philip James
Corps Officers

Message from the Corps Sergeant Major



By now, most of you will have heard about our "buddy" system. We want to ensure that every person who attends our services, feels included in our Corps. We are encouraging our congregation to look out for each other, making a connection, so we can all move forward together as a body of Christ. Some may feel a bit unsure of this idea but it really is a way of including everybody, caring for everyone and making sure everyone feels at home. If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to ask myself or Olive Lightley for further details. Romans 12:5: "So in Christ we, though many, are one body, and each member belongs to all the others."

God Bless Jill



MOVIE → NIGHT ←

BEDLINGTON SALVATION ARMY BAND

presents an evening full of

MOVIE CLASSICS!



FRIDAY
19TH JUNE
— @ 7PM —



BEDLINGTON
SALVATION ARMY
HARTFORD ROAD WEST
NE22 6HU



TICKETS
£5
— PAY ON THE DOOR —

*Come along and enjoy
a fantastic night of music!*

The Salvation Army is a Church & registered charity
214779 in England and Wales and SC009359 in Scotland

Recent Announcements



Food Bank Donation

A big thank you to Guidepost & Sheepwash WI who visited us yesterday with a donation for our food bank. They marked their 110 year anniversary by collecting 110 tins for us (We are sure there were more than that by time we received the donation!)



Food Bank referrals are open Monday to Wednesday and Friday, between 08:00 and 12:00.

Songs of Praise request

We have received an email from the producer of BBC One's Songs of Praise. They are looking for couples with meaningful and uplifting stories that reflect love, resilience, faith, and service to others, or couples who have supported one another through life's challenges. If you are interested in taking part, please contact Phil or Carrie James.



Changes to Anniversary weekend

We have amended our plans for the 148th Corps Anniversary weekend. On Friday 19th June the band present their 'Night at the Movies' concert where tickets are £5 and starts at 7pm. On Saturday 20th there will be a fellowship evening with a faith supper at 6:30pm. Then on Sunday our meeting will be as normal and will be led by Majors Martin and Beverley Hill.

Northern Summer School 2026

For anyone between the ages 12-25, bookings for this year's Northern Summer School are now open. The week will run from Saturday 8th to Saturday 15th August at the usual venue, Collingwood College.

The theme for the week is "The Way – Devoted Together and Sent." Applications are still open so if you would like to attend, please see the poster next to this for more information on how to book your place, or you can speak to the Jason Tasker.



BEDLINGTON SALVATION ARMY



RETIREMENT CELEBRATION

IN HONOUR OF

Brian Dixon

RETIREMENT AS SONGSTER LEADER



SATURDAY
11TH JULY



6:30 PM
TICKETS £3



HARTFORD ROAD WEST
BEDLINGTON NE22 6HU

FEATURING

- BEDLINGTON SONGSTERS
- SUNDERLAND MILLFIELD BAND
- GUEST LEADERS MAJORS
DONALD & ANN MONTGOMERY



Faith, Music, and Ministry.



At the conclusion of the band's rehearsal on Tuesday, 2nd of June, Brian Storey shared a devotional reflection on the benefits of being a member of a Christian brass band. With his kind permission, Outlook is delighted to publish his thoughts in this month's edition.

I believe that faith, skill, and community, combined through worship and ministry, provide a unique non-verbal way to express spirituality and share the good news of the Gospel. The joy of forming lifelong friendships, together with the support that comes from being a member of Bedlington Band and the congregation, is a wonderful blessing.

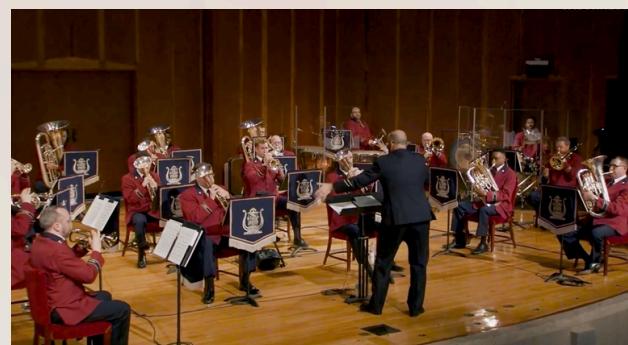
One of the marvellous things about our band is its cross-generational outlook. It hasn't always been that way, but over time it has become an important feature of who we are. When younger and older people come together, often with family connections through the band, it creates opportunities for learning, encouragement, and fellowship. Encouraging younger members to develop their musical skills is important, but equally important is supporting them on their spiritual journey.



Being part of a group that enjoys the challenge of outreach within the local community broadens our horizons beyond the walls of the Salvation Army Hall. Recently, I met a gentleman at the golf club who reminded me of a Christmas Day when we walked through the streets playing music. He remembered the visibility we brought to the community on that special day and said he missed it when it wasn't there.

This leads me to consider our personal and collective response to the mission of being Christian musicians. Practice nights are a means of developing our technical abilities, and that is important. We all want to improve and become better at what we do. I am sure we all embrace the idea that we should be better next Tuesday than we are this Tuesday. We work together to present music that is worthy of Christian worship, giving the same dedication to our musical preparation as we do to the spiritual aspects of our ministry.

We should also pause to reflect on our spiritual progress. As individuals and as a group, we are part of a global ministry. I find it inspiring when I watch videos online from bands in other parts of the world and realise that people just like us are embracing the opportunity to spread God's Word through the ministry of brass banding. Just as technical development requires effort, so does spiritual growth. The two go hand in hand. My current challenge is learning the opening bars of -



Jurassic Park ahead of our movie night on June 19th, and I'll be working hard to make that happen. It is my personal responsibility to improve.

I've had many discussions with people in the banding world, particularly within Christian circles. Many of us embrace the idea of being part of a Salvation Army brass band because that is how we were raised and nurtured. Had we grown up in a different tradition, perhaps a Methodist church, we might have been encouraged to join an orchestra instead. Whatever the setting, personal development remains our responsibility.



I don't subscribe to the idea that because someone is not a strong player, they don't need to practise. In fact, the opposite is true. If you're struggling, that's exactly why you should practise. Improvement comes through commitment and effort.

The Bible provides many examples of music playing a central role in worship and faith. Psalm 150 is perhaps the perfect example: "Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens. Praise him for his acts of power; praise him for his surpassing greatness. Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise him with the harp and lyre, praise him with tambourine and dancing, praise him with the strings and flute, praise him with the clash of cymbals" and if I may add my own words: Praise Him through the efforts of Bedlington Band and the wider community.



I believe in taking our banding seriously. The brass band tradition within the Salvation Army is diminishing in many places, and we are fortunate to be in the position we are today. We should count our blessings. Brass bands have a rich heritage, often rooted in mines, shipyards, mills, co-operatives, and local communities. We are custodians of that heritage.

Taking banding seriously means striving to give the best performance we can. For some, that may involve contests and competitions. For us, it means presenting music that blesses our congregation, reaches our community, and enriches our own lives.



Some time ago, I read an article by Craig Lewis, Territorial Secretary for Music in Canada. Quoting Martin Luther, he wrote: "Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world. Those words remind us of the significance of our musical ministry and the importance of offering our very best in service to God.

My prayer is that God's blessing will rest upon our band. May each member know His presence in their life. May we commit ourselves to offering the very best ministry we can, so that our congregation and all who hear us receive encouragement, blessing, and a deeper sense of God's presence. And with His strength, may each of us respond faithfully to that challenge.



Love God
Love Others

KIDS SUMMER CAMP

**FUN & CREATIVE
ACTIVITIES FOR BOYS
& GIRLS OVER 6
YEARS OLD**

When
**17-21 AUGUST
09:00-12:30**

Where
**HARTFORD
ROAD WEST
NE22 6HU**

Cost
£10

Activities

- ✓ Storytelling
- ✓ Outbound games
- ✓ Arts & Craft
- ✓ Breakfast & Lunch
- ✓ Great Fun

Theme

I've been changed for good.

How to sign up

Email: Bedlington@salvationarmy.org.uk
Or Phone 01670 829356 in working hours

The Salvation Army is a Church & registered charity 214779 in England and Wales and SC009359 in Scotland



BEDLINGTON CORPS ARCHIVE

We are preparing an update to our corps history in anticipation of our 150th anniversary in 2028.

We have already received plenty of content that will be included in the Archive but we are now looking to appeal for anything before 1970 and between the years 2000-2010

If you loan us any physical items, we promise to return them once we have finished using them.

If you are willing to help, please speak to either Jill Moore or Daniel Mercer.

Alternatively, you can email us at Bedlington@salvationarmy.org.uk.

Thank you!

Bedlington Corps Archive

We have not received any indication from our previous newsletter for identification of pictures and when they were taken. As part of the Corps archive we are preparing for our upcoming 150th anniversary in 2028, we need your help identifying dates from some historical materials we've been given. Below are a few pictures — if you recognise any of them or know the dates they are from, please let Daniel Mercer or Jill Moore know. Thank You.



Tom the Salvation Salesman

A 75 year old pensioner can rightly claim to be the champion solo charity collector and top newspaper seller in Blyth after thirty years of standing out in all weathers and raising almost £100,000 for the Salvation Army.

Tom Park, with his smiling round face, is instantly recognized in Blyth wearing his striking Salvation Army uniform and carrying a collection box and armful of War Cry newspapers.

Tom, lives in Chestnut Avenue, less than quarter of a mile from where he was born in Barnard Street, but lived for several years with his family in Killy Brewer and was educated at schools in Bebside. He launched into his Salvation Army career by chance when he accompanied his wife, Frances, to the Citadel in Union Street to help in the distribution of the free Government butter scheme operating at that time. It led to him signing as a "soldier" and almost immediately began selling the War Cry. He said: "The butter distribution at the citadel was stopped by the Army because of the greed of some people who travelled to other depots in the town to get more than they should."



Tom Park.

Tom's selling work started on the streets of the town, notably outside Woolworths, but the building of the Presto multiple store on the old railway station site brought him indoors and when Safeway took over he was still protected by the rain. Morrisons then bought the site but Tom was cast out into the cold again because widespread flooding closed the store. When it reopened he was back in the warmth.

Because of his wide and varied jobs - welding, opencast, shipbreaking, sweetmaking and factory work - his collecting was, and is, confined to Saturdays and a set routine. He is in position when the store opens at seven o'clock and does not leave until half past one in the afternoon. "The girls are very kind to me," he said. "They often bring me cups of tea."

The Blyth Citadel was closed three years ago and was purchased by a local businessman who sold it on to the Muslim community for use as a mosque. It was this which led to Tom being approached in the store by critics of the change of use.

"I told them it had nothing to do with me," he said. "I explained the citadel was closed because of a shortage of officers. We were not the only one - Ashington and Morpeth were also closed for the same reason. To become an officer you have to give up time to attend training sessions in London and not enough were coming forward."

Tom reckons he collects around £60 every Saturday at the store but this increases to £70 a week during the Christmas period. On these figures it means that over the thirty years he has raised almost £100,000 for the Salvation Army. Sales of the War Cry - he sells out every Saturday - totals over the same period almost six figures. In recognition of his efforts he was presented with a badge, now on his uniform, as the most productive collector and salesperson in the region. And Tom, a widower, for the past 24 years, plans to continue for as long as his health allows him.

BEDLINGTON.

STILL further north? Yes, further north. We like the pitmen and we will fly the standard within sight of every colliery in the kingdom, God helping us. But there was another attraction to Bedlington besides the fact of its being the centre of a network of coal mines, and that was a newly built unoccupied theatre. This we seized, and threw the doors open on Sunday with an entire change of performance, Brother Borrill, the Happy Gardener, being the chief actor.

The first services were a success, and the work has been taken up and is being pushed forward by Sister Mary Ann Smith with energy—victory after victory having been obtained. Read the following scrap of intelligence:—"On the 9th we had a wonderful meeting, for we had a number of valiant soldiers who were heroes for the devil, but now they are heroes for the Lord, their experience was something wonderful."

SNAILS FOR THE FAMILY.

One man said I thank God that he has spared me, for I was a great sinner, I was so bad, I was too bad to live. I used to go out and spend all my wages; once I was so bad I brought a large stone into my house with a lot of snails on it, and I told my family that they had to live on these the next fortnight and get fat; but, thank God, friends, I am now restored to my right mind.

CHRIST FOR BILL.

Another man said, if any man has a right to thank God, it is me, for the devil, who I used to serve, was a bad master. I was a drunkard, was a gambler and a card player, and I would go to the theatre and play the fool for to please the people, and then for my services in that army, they sent me to Morpeth Prison for my wages. Friends, it is a poor place to go to, for to get fat. Now the people tell me I am going wrong in my mind, but, hallelujah! I am now getting right, for praise God I never was so happy in all my life. You may laugh at me, I will wait till you get your laugh out; you all know that I thought it no shame to come out into the streets and fight for the devil, and now do you think I would be ashamed to fight for God? No, hallelujah!—for he has made me happy, and you can think of me what you like—but Christ for Bill.

Our sister is fighting bravely, and waking up the whole country side. The place is very poor, any help will be very welcome, and may be sent to,
MARY ANN SMITH.



All the Other Mummies were There—but Mine!

Corps Cadet Guardian **MRS. SELCOMBE**, of Bedlington, tells of an intimate experience

At the Army junior meetings, which made her very happy, I had no objection but no interest myself in The Salvation Army. Nor had I any intention of allowing Edna to become a Salvationist.

One December Sunday, however, Edna gave her heart to Jesus, and urged me to do likewise, asking me to help her to live up to that which she had promised, and to refrain from sending her to the shops on Sundays. I was moved by her in my own strength. I soon failed.

By this time, a second daughter had been born to us, and we took our children for Sunday pleasure trips when the weather was fine. Edna was not happy about missing the junior meetings.

At the invitation of a school-friend, Edna began attending the Army junior meetings, which made her very happy. I had no objection but no interest myself in The Salvation Army. Nor had I any intention of allowing Edna to become a Salvationist.

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THANKFUL FRIDAY

Every Friday

10:00 - 12:00

Hartford Road West NE22 6HU



Tea
Coffee
Toasted Tea Cakes
Biscuits



The Salvation Army is a Church & registered charity 214779 in England and Wales and SC009359 in Scotland

Weekly Programme

SUNDAY

Morning Service 10.00am

Sunday School 10.45am

MONDAY

Home League 12.30pm

Monthly—see monthly plan

WEDNESDAY

Little Lambs Toddler Group 9.15-11.15am

Children up to 3yrs must be with an adult.

Call Arleen to book a place.

Seniors Lunch Club 12.00pm

Two Course meal for Over 60s. £5

Please call Arleen to book a place

Over 60s Sunshine Hour 1.30—2.30pm

All welcome (if you're over 60)

FRIDAY

Little Lambs Toddler Group 9.15-11.15am

Children up to 3yrs must be with an adult.

Call Arleen to book a place.

Thankful Friday 10am-noon.

Free refreshments & all welcome

Corps Calendar In June

Thursday 11th
PCC Meeting

Wednesday 17th
Men's Fellowship - 19:30

Friday 19th
Bedlington at the Movies Band concert - 18:30

Saturday 20th & Sunday 21st
Corps Anniversary weekend

Saturday 27th & Sunday 28th
DFL SPORT, FAITH LIFE

Saturday 27th
Youth Band and Chorus - Kirkcaldy
& Fellowship Band at Sunderland Monkwearmouth

Monday 29th
Home League

Corps Calendar In July

Wednesday 1st
Ladies fellowship - 7:30

Friday 3rd - Sunday 5th
Together 26 in Birmingham

Saturday 11th
Music ministries festival including the retirement of Brian Dixon as
songster leader - 6:30

Wednesday 15th
Men's Fellowship - Quoits from 7:30pm

Friday 17th
Parents & Toddlers last session

Sunday 19th
Divisional welcome meeting from 1:30pm
& Amble Songs of Praise (Band), 3pm

Monday 27th
Home League

Saturday 25th – Saturday 1st August
Territorial Music School